

Message Text

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ACTION COA-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 DLOS-06 PM-07 L-03 SCI-06 COME-00

DODE-00 NSF-04 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9213

INFO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE PRIORITY

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E O 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCLR, TPHY, PBOR, RP

SUBJ: OCEANOGRAPHIC RESEARCH SULU SEA

REF: STATE 224125

1. EMB DOES NOT CONCUR WITH UTILIZING THE 1958 CONVENTION ON THE CONTINENTAL SHELF AS THE BASIS FOR REQUESTING CONSENT OF GOP FOR PROPOSED OCEANOGRAPHIC RESEARCH IN SULU SEA BY SCRIPPS INSTITUTIONAL VESSEL THOMAS WASHINGTON. EMB BELIEVES SUCH REQUEST WOULD FORCE GOP TO REPLY WITH ARCHIPELAGO STATEMENT AND INSIST ON INTERNAL WATERS CONCEPT OF SULU SEA. ALTHOUGH GOP MIGHT PROBABLY GRANT PERMISSION, REPLY WOULD REQUIRED USG TACITLY TO RECOGNIZE ARCHIPELAGO THEORY. AND IF GOP REFUSED ON THOSE GROUNDS, WE WOULD HAVE MADE THINGS MUCH MORE DIFFICULT FOR US.

2. IN EVALUATING ALTERNATIVES, EMB BELIEVES THAT MERE NOTIFICATION TO GOP WOULD BE BEST APPROACH. THE NOTIFICATION WOULD STATE THAT A U.S. REGISTERED VESSEL, THOMAS WASHINGTON, PRIVATELY OPERATED RESEARCH SHIP UNDER SCRIPPS INSTITUTION'S AUSPICES, WILL BE CONDUCTING OCEANOGRAPHIC RESEARCH DURING ITS TRANSIT FROM SINGAPORE THROUGH SULU SEA TO GUAM DURING EARLY PART OF DECEMBER. ALL RESEARCH
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DATA, WHICH WILL INCLUDE BATHYMETRIC, MAGNETIC, SEISMIC,

AND GRAVIMETRIC EXPERIMENTS. WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE TO GOP
ON REQUEST.

3. EMB WOULD ALSO LIKE TO OFFER GOP OPPORTUNITY OF PUTTING
SCIENTIST OR OTHER TECHNICALLY QUALIFIED OBSERVER ABOARD
THE THOMAS WASHINGTON WHILE IN VICINITY OF PHILIPPINES
FOR SCIENTIFIC OBSERVATION PURPOSES. THIS WOULD ASSIST IN
ALLOWING PHILS TO IGNORE THE ANOMALIES BETWEEN THEIR
ARCHIPELAGO THEORY AND USG TRANSIT NOTIFICATION.

4. EMB BELIEVES SUGGESTED APPROACH MAY ALLOW GOP TO
RATIONALIZE THE NOTIFICATION WITH THEIR ARCHIPELAGO THEORY
AND POSSIBLY HEAD OFF DIFFICULTY. IN ANY EVENT, EVEN IF
GOP QUESTIONS NOTIFICATION IN FORM SUGGESTED PARA2, EMB
IN BETTER POSITION TO DISCUSS WITH GOP THAN IF THE BASIS
OF NOTIFICATION WAS TREATY TO WHICH GOP NOT EVEN A PARTY.

5. REQUEST DEPT. COMMENTS AND/OR CONCURRENCE.
PURNELL

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Message Attributes

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